

Energy Policy Act Accomplishments
Bureau of Land Management
-- Executive Summary --
(August 10, 2006)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is diligently implementing the various provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The BLM has dedicated staff to an Implementation Team and established an Incident Command organization to address the tasks identified in the Act. A webpage was established on the BLM National website (www.blm.gov) devoted to public information regarding BLM implementation actions.

Section 102-111 – Energy Management, Use and Efficiency

- Fleet Management Plan established to monitor BLM motor vehicle fleet size, reduce fuel costs, and acquire more energy efficient motor vehicles
- Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) issued to Johnson Controls Inc. to incorporate energy efficiency technologies and renewable energy into BLM installations and facilities

Section 210 – Biomass

- Completed Biomass Joint Work Plan with Forest Service
- Six Biomass regional study areas established to improve biomass utilization
- Multi-agency Agreement signed to support the Lakeview, Oregon Biomass Energy Facility
- MOU signed with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation (Oregon) for an interagency fuels treatment program
- Assisted Forest Service in the review and award of \$4.2 million in grants to 18 small enterprises for biomass projects

Section 211 – Renewable Energy (Wind Energy)

- Finalized Programmatic Wind Energy Development EIS and issued Record of Decision to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and land use plan amendments to provide for wind energy development on public lands

Section 221-237 – Geothermal

- Issued interim guidance for processing pending geothermal lease nominations
- Signed Interagency MOU with Forest Service to improve geothermal leasing and permitting procedures
- Published Proposed geothermal regulations for public comment

Section 331 – NPR-2 Transfer

- Transfer from DOE to BLM was effective on date of enactment
- Issued Final EA and land use plan amendment for further oil and gas leasing
- O&G lease sale scheduled for September 13, 2006

Section 348 – North Slope Science Initiative

- Secretary approved Charter for the North Slope Science Technical Advisory Panel
- Reviewed nominations and made final selections for the 15-member Advisory Panel
- First meeting of the Advisory Panel was held at the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska (Fairbanks)

Section 349 – Orphaned, Abandoned or Idled Wells

- BLM and Forest Service jointly developed an inventory and priority ranking process which is being field tested in Wyoming and New Mexico
- Pilot Program for royalty credits is being developed for initial implementation in New Mexico and Alaska

Section 350 – Tar Sands Lease Rule

- Issued Final regulations to provide for tar sand leases

Section 352 – Oil and Gas Lease Acreage Rule

- Issued Final regulations to revise lease acreage limitations

Section 353 and 354 – Gas Hydrate and Carbon Dioxide Injection Incentives

- Issued Advance Notices of Proposed Rulemaking for public comments
- ASLM signed Secretary Determination to not proceed with royalty incentives

Section 361 – Review of Oil and Gas Procedures

- BLM and Forest Service completed review of oil and gas leasing and permitting practices and have prepared a report of that review which is currently in the final surname process

Section 362 – Oil and Gas Best Management Practices

- Updated and published the Gold Book of “Surface Operating Standards and Guidelines for O&G Exploration and Development”
- Issued an Instruction Memorandum (IM) that established oil and gas process improvement teams in BLM Field Offices

Section 363 – Oil and Gas MOU

- Signed Interagency MOU with Forest Service to improve oil and gas leasing and permitting procedures

Section 364 – Oil and Gas Assessment

- Completed EPCA (Energy Policy and Conservation Act) Phase II inventory of oil and gas resources and have prepared a report of that review. Release of report expected in September 2006.

Section 365 – Oil and Gas Pilot Offices

- Signed Interagency MOU to establish roles, responsibilities and delegations of authority among federal agencies in 7 BLM Oil and Gas Pilot Offices
- Filled 103 BLM positions and 9 contract positions in the Pilot Offices
- Transferred funds to Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers and BIA for an additional 20 positions to support the Pilot Offices
- Issued contract to Booz Allen Hamilton to assist in the review and reporting of implementation and performance of the streamlining efforts in the Pilot Offices

Section 366 – APD Processing Timeframes

- Issued interim policy guidance on APD processing timeframes required by the Act
- Published Proposed regulations to revise Oil and Gas Onshore Order #1 and incorporate the APD processing timeframes required by the Act

Section 367 – Right-of-Way Rental Fee Schedule Update

- Issued Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for public comment

Section 368 – Designation of Right-of-Way Corridors

- Initiated Programmatic EIS to evaluate designation of energy right-of-way corridors on federal lands in eleven Western states
- Completed public Scoping meetings and Governor coordination meetings
- Released Preliminary Draft Corridor Map for public comment

Section 369 – Oil Shale/Tar Sands Development

- Selected 6 oil shale Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) lease nominations in Colorado and Utah for further NEPA review and analysis
- Submitted Report to Congress on the status of implementation actions to promulgate regulations, prepare Programmatic EIS and provide for leasing
- Initiated Programmatic EIS to evaluate oil shale and tar sands development in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming
- Completed public Scoping meetings and Governor coordination meetings for the Programmatic EIS
- Prepared Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for oil shale regulations
- Released preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) for the EGL Oil Shale RD&D proposal in Colorado on July 28 for a 30 day public comment period. Preliminary EAs for the remaining RD&D proposals will also be released for public review.

Section 371 – Oil and Gas Lease Reinstatement

- Issued interim policy guidance on processing petitions for lease reinstatements
- Published Final regulations to extend time limit to file lease reinstatement petitions

Section 372 – Right-of-Way MOU

- Signed Interagency MOU to support preparation of the Programmatic Right-of-Way Corridor EIS (Section 368) and to improve coordination in the review of energy related rights-of-way on federal lands

Section 390 – Oil and Gas NEPA Review

- Issued policy guidance to implement the oil and gas NEPA categorical exclusion provisions of the Act

Section 432 – Coal Lease Acreage

- Issued interim policy guidance to increase the acreage limitations for coal lease modifications from 160 acres to 960 acres

Section 434 – Coal Lease Advance Royalty

- Issued interim policy guidance to implement the coal lease advance royalty in lieu of production provisions of the Act

Section 436 – Coal Lease Bonus Bid Bonds

- Issued policy guidance that does not require the posting of a surety bond to cover coal lease bonus bid payments from lessees with good payment history

Section 1211 – Electric Transmission Reliability

- Released Draft Programmatic Vegetation Treatment EIS that addressed vegetation treatment activities on public lands, including vegetative treatment of electric transmission rights-of-way to ensure the safety and reliability of electric powerlines (Final EIS is expected to be released in September 2006)
- Signed Interagency MOU with Edison Electric Institute that addresses vegetation treatment procedures for electric transmission rights-of-way on BLM and Forest Service lands

Section 1221 – Electric Transmission Rights-of-Way

- Submitted a joint BLM and Forest Service Report to Congress on the status of electric transmission rights-of-way and corridors on BLM and Forest Service lands
- Signed Interagency MOU to improve the coordinated review and permitting of interstate electric transmission facilities

Section 1835 – Split Estate Oil and Gas Report

- Completed a public review process and public listening sessions on BLM policies and practices regarding the management of Federal subsurface oil and gas development activities and the effects on privately owned surface
- Completed review of public comments and prepared a Report to Congress which is currently in the final surname process

Section 1836 – Powder River Basin Development Conflicts

- Completed a review of Federal and State laws regarding the development of Federal coal and the development of coalbed methane in the Powder River Basin and submitted a Report to Congress